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REGISTERED

RURAL DISTRICT OF WADEBRIDGE

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

Year Ending 31st December, 1962

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Reed, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

A. E. J. Bewes, F.R.I.C.S.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

S. D. Crowle, M.P.H.I.A.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1962.

The Vital Statistics show the usual variations when dealing with small populations. The number of Registered Live Births was 5 fewer than in 1961, and the number of Registered Deaths increased by 29, mainly in elderly males. There were fewer still births but more infant deaths. These fluctuations have no special significance.

On the sanitary side, the Council has still the serious problem of sewerage deficiency to contend with. No part of the Rural District can be said to be adequately sewered, though Wadebridge town and Port Isaac have what must now be considered out of date sewerage systems. The lack of adequate sewage disposal schemes becomes more obvious as the years go by, particularly with the ever increasing population during the holiday season. Residential development is increasing, particularly in certain parts of the district, and serious consideration may have to be given to restricting development in these areas until main drainage is obtained. Nuisances caused by the inadequate systems occur mainly in the holiday period when they are overloaded, and it is easy to exaggerate their importance from the public health point of view. However on public health and aesthetic grounds they are most undesirable and do considerable discredit to the district. The nuisances are by no means all of private origin, and the failings of the Local Authority occasionally present the Public Health Staff with difficulties when dealing with private nuisances. The sooner the Rural District can put its own house in order, the easier will be the task of tidying up the remainder.

Water supplies and sewage are closely connected, since we are busy converting one to the other. They are also related in that the rivers from which our water is taken must eventually carry the sewage produced. The more water we abstract from the river the less able it is to carry the increased effluent. The quantity of water available from the North Cornwall Water Board is limited by the volume of upland streams and the limit may soon be be reached. Adequate water storage to provide abundant supplies, and to maintain a suitable river flow is likely to be required in the not very distant future. Both the quantity and quality of the water supplied by the Board were adequate during the year.

I should like to express my thanks to the Council and its Staff for their continued assistance.

Yours obedient servant,

JOHN REED

I GENERAL STATISTICS

Estimated Mid Year Population		14,540
Area in Acres		87,964
Number of Inhabited Houses		5,234
Rateable Value		£141,509
Product of Penny Rate		£571
Comparability Factors	Deaths	0.94
	Births	0.85

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Registered Live Births, 1962

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	121	139	260
Illegitimate	4	4	8
	125	143	268

Birth Rate per 1,000 population	18.4
Birth Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	18.0
Comparable Birth Rate	17.2

Stillbirths

Six legitimate stillbirths were registered. Four were male and two female.

Deaths

Registered Deaths, 1962

Male	Female	Total
101	89	190

Crude Death rate per 1,000 population	13.1
Death Rate, England and Wales	11.9
Comparable Death Rate	11.1

Principal Causes of Death

	Male	Female	Total
Heart Disease	42	43	85
Cerebro Vascular Disease	6	15	21
Respiratory Disease	7	5	12
Cancer	15	9	24
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Accident, Suicide etc.	7	1	8
All other causes	23	16	39
	101	89	190

Infant Deaths

Ten infant deaths were recorded - eight male and two female. Seven of the deaths occurred within the first week of life.

II GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospital Services. The Hospitals serving the district are the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro and the East Cornwall Hospital, Bodmin. Out Patient clinics are held for the major specialities at the East Cornwall Hospital with the exception of ante-natal and gynaecological clinic held in County Council premises in Wadebridge. Accommodation for the mentally ill is at St. Lawrence's Hospital, Bodmin. A comparatively few patients are referred to the Plymouth Group of Hospitals from the Eastern part of the district.

Laboratory Services. The Laboratory at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary continued to be used for public health purposes.

Local Authority Services.

Ambulances. The district is covered by County Council ambulances based on the Main Station at Bodmin. The vehicles are radio controlled. A supplementary service is provided by the Voluntary organisations, British Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Brigade, situated in Padstow and Wadebridge. Sitting case transport is provided by County Council Utilecons and by the Voluntary Hospital Car Service. The provisions were adequate throughout the year.

Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting. Seven nurses undertaking combined duties were employed during the year. Two nurses were engaged in Full-time Health Visiting, both General and Tuberculosis. One hundred and ninety eight domiciliary confinements were attended during the year. No cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified.

Immunisation and Vaccination. Protection against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis and smallpox was available, through the Family Doctor, the Infant Welfare Centre and School Health Service, vaccination against Tuberculosis for household contacts of cases at the Chest Clinic, Bodmin, and for children in their 12th year through the School Health Service.

Home Help Service. Twenty five spare time helps were employed during 1962. Much of their time was spent in assisting the elderly of whom 35 required continuous help.

School Health Service. Routine examination of school children as Entrants and Leavers showed the physical condition of pupils to be very satisfactory. The Buildings of the old schools are gradually being improved. Two schools, St. Issey and St. Tudy are still without flush sanitation. The majority of schools now have hot water supplies and paper towels, in addition to modern sanitation. School meals and milk supplies are satisfactory.

III SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supplies. The principal supply of water to the Rural District is from the North Cornwall Water Board's De Lank source. The town of Wadebridge has its own supply, frequently supplemented by De Lank water, and the North Eastern portion of the district obtained some of its supply from the Crowdy Marsh source. There are still properties with their own supplies, some producing water of doubtful quality. Fifty samples of the North Cornwall Water Board's supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. Four only produced results not completelysatisfactory for a filtered, chlorinated supply. Two samples of well water were submitted for bacteriological examination but no chemical analyses were obtained. Thirty two samples from private supplies were submitted, of which 15 were found to be unsafe for drinking purposes. Persons using these unsafe supplies were advised to boil drinking water. Steps were taken with the owners of affected properties to secure improvement in the supplies.

The average Ph. value of the De Lank supply was 8.8. That of Wadebridge town supply between 6 and 7. Distribution difficulties were experienced in Wadebridge town and occasional reports of discolouration were received. The difficulties are presumably the result of corroded iron mains or service pipes. Lead piping is not used in the water services. The approximate position in relation to the distribution of water throughout the district was as follows:-

Parish	Number of Houses Supplied Direct	Estimated Population Supplied	Number of Houses Supplied by Standpipe	Estimated Population Supplied
St. Breock	143	429	24	72
St. Eval including R.A.F. Married Quarters	367	1,101	Unknown	Unknown
Blisland	62	186	"	"
Cardinham	Nil			
Egloshayle	50	150	"	"
Helland	38	114	"	"
Lanhydrock	Nil			
Lanivet	183	549	"	"
St. Endellion	502	1,506	"	"
St. Ervan	86	258	"	"
St. Mabyn	92	275	"	"
St. Merryn	411	1,233	"	"
St. Minver Highlands	316	947	"	"
St. Minver Lowlands	491	1,461	"	"
St. Tudy	97	291	"	"
Wadebridge	1,079	3,237	"	"
Withiel	37	111	"	"
St. Issey	155	465	"	"
St. Kew	255	764	"	"

Refuse Disposal. The site at Trevorder continued in use. Although not a "controlled" tip there were no complaints received during the year.

Caravan Sites.

Licensed Sites, 1962

Holiday Sites (including single vans with seasonal licences)	27
Permanent sites (including single vans)	37
	64

Progress is continuing on the provision of additional facilities as required by the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, and it is hoped that all the main holiday sites will comply with the Conditions of Licence by the beginning of the next summer season.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

No new sewerage systems were constructed during the year. "Administrative" progress was made on the Lanivet, St. Issey, Port Isaac and St. Merryn schemes. The most forward, Lanivet, is likely to commence during the current year. It is proposed to submit the St. Merryn scheme in phases, Phase 1 to include the Trevithick Housing Estate, being particularly urgent.

Public Health Inspection.

Summary of Visits

Meat Inspection	557
Food and Drugs	7
Nuisances	47
Drainage	86
Water Supplies	14
Water Samples	16
Camping and Caravan Sites	67
Street Lighting	20
Housing Inspection	20
Improvement Grants	77
Shops and Cafes	9
Ice Cream	3
Milk and Dairies	1
Others	55
Factories	9
	988

IV FOOD AND DRUGS

Slaughterhouses : Meat Inspection.

The majority of slaughtering in the district is conducted at the Wadebridge Abbatoir, where meat is produced for general distribution. The three remaining slaughterhouses provide meat principally to the butchers' shops with which they are associated. All slaughterhouses comply with the new Regulations. The figures of meat inspection are shown in Appendix 1.

Milk.

The County Council is the responsible Authority for the supervision of milk distribution. Forty five distributors were registered. Samples of graded milk submitted to the Laboratory were found to be satisfactory. No cases of Abortus Fever were reported.

Ice Cream.

There are no ice cream manufacturers in the district. Seventy six premises were registered for the sale of ice cream.

V HOUSING

Slum Clearance. Six houses were closed during the year under the Housing Acts. All were individual unfit houses. No clearance schemes were submitted. Seventeen families, comprising 43 persons, were rehoused from sub-standard accommodation. Two houses were made "fit" during the year and the undertakings not to re-let them were cancelled. Improvement Grants were given on 45 properties, 39 Standard and 6 Discretionary.

The Council completed Phase 1 of the Egloshayle Site, comprising 70 units of accommodation distributed as follows:-

Flats for Elderly Persons	28
Two Bedroomed Houses	32
Three Bedroomed Houses	10

The Flats for the elderly practically satisfied the immediate need for this type of accommodation, though subsequent applications indicate a continued demand. The Upstairs flats have been found to be unsuitable even for the fit elderly, the majority having now applied for transfer to ground floor accommodation.

Private building accounted for 45 houses during the year.

VI FACTORIES

The Factory Register contains 46 Registered premises. Nine were visited during the year and remedies were secured for 2 sanitary defects recorded.

VII PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notified Infectious Diseases, 1962

Measles	41	Pulmonary tuberculosis	4
Scarlet Fever	3	Poliomyelitis	1
Whooping Cough	3	Meningitis	1
Acute Rheumatism	1	Food Poisoning	1

There was exceptional incidence of notifiable disease during 1962. No outbreaks of food poisoning were reported, but as usual gastro enteritis was widespread during the holiday period. The number of notified cases of pulmonary tuberculosis increased, but the figures are of no major significance.

Protective inoculations were available through the Infant Welfare Centre, Family Doctors and the School Health Service. The proportion of children protected who reach the age of one year in 1962 against the following diseases were:

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus	77%
Poliomyelitis	81%
Smallpox	63%

The outbreaks of smallpox reported nationally in 1961/2 resulted in a considerable increase in smallpox vaccinations in children and adults.

A good response to B.C.G. vaccination was achieved amongst children entering secondary schools. The proportion of positive reactors to the Heaf Test was less than 10% X. Rays of those positive reactors subsequently proved to be satisfactory.

APPENDIX I

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle				
	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	1,896	289	117	4,252	9,035
Number Inspected	1,894	289	117	4,226	9,026
All diseases except cysticercosis and tuberculosis					
(a) Whole carcase condemned	8	8	22	46	40
(b) Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	227	147	-	134	959
Tuberculosis only					
(a) Whole carcase condemned	-	1	-	-	1
(b) Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	1	-	-	153
Cysticercosis only					
(a) Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	9	1	-	-	-
Gross weight of meat condemned in pounds	4,030	4,350	935	3,095	3,339